Krishna is a legitimate deity, however the interpretation of Krishna is faulty. The Mahabharata war was totally managed by Krishna and all his life had been a violent struggle against entities against humanity. The love being talked about in the scripture which is highly descriptive is very clearly orgasmic love and not some weird abstract reinterpretation. They ironically prove themselves wrong according to the scripture. Note all this started from the vaishnavite revival with the guy named Shankara which was from south India which is a hotspot for Jews . The point is Krishna's story is legitimate however the lens their interpreting it with is faulty.

Not many people in my state worship Shiva as a principal deity as i live in the north. However to tell you what generally occurs in a sense between the north and the south .Everyone prays(simple mantras like 'Aum Bhur bhubashaya','mahamrutyunjay mantra','ganesh mantra',etc) to their deity and believes in 'bhakti' like the christians believe .Then there are a small group of people generally brahmins(or people whove joined a religious faction) who practice basic yoga and mantra chanting or pursue some sort of spiritual practice .Other than that people generally view Gods as a way of channeling their materialistic desires . I suspect the south has such a situation as well because people in this society are turning away from god in the sense that god exists to not be angered and everyone prays so lets pray too(we're cultured as well lol.).Generally in my generation its like a formality.

However ive marked a stark contrast in the south in what i think a deep astrological knowledge better than the north,existence of tantric literature , the existence of the temples which were not destroyed by muslims and principal shiva worship. What you'll generally see in India (currently) is a lot of ceremonial system of worship and a lot less deep understanding about spirituality. Many people practice yoga for physical fitness as opposed to a spiritual practice(mostly boomers ). There are a lot of spiritual factions like the Hare Krishnas and Arya Samaj who have questionable motives. So the situation is not much different to the west. Basically Shiva is worshiped with the same intent krishna is, as a deity you pray to.

There are some Tamil separatists with the view that Shiva is a non aryan god belonging to the tamil culture and the aryans displayed the tamils from the north into the south by war(which i think is bullshit). Shiva as you know is the Horned God Pashupati and his worship is basically connected with lingam worship and shakti(mother godess) with the yoni worship. I believe these two concepts are integral to the sanatana dharma and that all yoga is based on this -union between the man and woman .

The thing is there are thousands of years old temples with Krishna and Vishnu worship which proves the Aryans and Tamils lived in harmony and practiced both fire and fertility worship.Separation of fire worship and fertility worship is creating the problem that we have. I think the both are interconnected and not separate.

The Hindu Mantras have no relation to the Enemy Thoughtform so any and all mantras from a Hindu source is okay to chant. It's just that if you have a particular goal your should chant a particular mantra.

For Example if you want to remove Internal and External Limitations or obstacles, the mantra Aum Gan Ganpataye Namah is good. For self discipline, productivity, calmness, concentration, Aum Hum Hanumataye Namah is good etc.

There are a lot of mantras which I don't understand what they are supposed to do but are very powerful .